



QUESTIONS FOR EVIDENCE SESSION

Background

In 2012 Lewisham Council's Sustainable Development Committee produced a report "Preserving Local Pubs" (attached) which resulted in important changes to Lewisham Council's planning rules and played an important role in helping to preserve some pubs which thrive today but remain under threat.

Land values in London mean that developers are finding various ways around planning law to either demolish, convert, partially convert or build around pubs to their detriment and which can lead to their loss. Since 2012 as a result, Lewisham pubs have been lost with many more remaining under threat.

Evidence for policy development needed

In order to ensure policy is effective and to tackle this existential threat to our public houses, the Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee is holding a single evidence session on December 12th inviting oral and written evidence. The aim is to provide evidence of how and where pubs are vulnerable and what changes can be made to local, regional and national planning laws to protect pubs from loss and development.

The committee would be most grateful if you could answer the following questions which will be submitted as evidence to the inquiry.

Please complete and return to Timothy Andrew timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk by Monday 3rd December.

1. Is it more sustainable in the long-term for a public house to retain the whole of its assets e.g. beer garden, car park, upstairs rooms for staff accommodation, bed and breakfast or function rooms?
2. What changes to planning regulations do you believe could be made in order to prevent the loss or partial loss of pubs?
3. Do you believe it is possible to run a profitable pub business in London and why?
4. What can the Council do to make running a public house easier e.g. licensing rules, waste collection, publicity etc?
5. What are the contractual elements (e.g. pub-tie etc.) of being a pub tenant licensee that affect the success or otherwise of a public house?